CLAIMS

[c1] 1. A method in a switch for selecting a destination port for data, the destination port being connected by a link to a port of another switch, the method comprising:

providing a designation that a first port and second port are equivalent;

receiving data that designates that the first port is to be the destination port for the received data; and

when the first port is currently unavailable, selecting the second port as the destination port for the received data based on the provided designation that the first port and the second port are equivalent.

[c2] 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the provided designation is stored in a table with an entry for ports of the switch.

[c3] 3. The method of claim 2 wherein an entry for the first port designates that the second port is equivalent to the first port.

[c4] 4. The method of claim 2 wherein an entry for the second port designates that the first port is equivalent to the second port.

[c5] 5. The method of claim 1 wherein a port can be equivalent to multiple other ports.

[c6] 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the multiple ports have associated priorities and the second port is selected as the destination port when it has a priority that is higher than another of the multiple ports that are available.

[c7] 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the received data designates the first port to be the destination port based on a mapping of a virtual address of the received data to the first port.

[c8] 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the provided designations is provided by a source external to the switch.

[c9] 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the provided designation is dynamically updated by a source external to the switch.

[c10] 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the switch is part of an interconnect fabric.

[c11] 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the switch is Fibre Channel compatible.

[c12] 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the switch is InfiniBand compatible.

[c13] 13. The method of claim 1 wherein the data is a Fibre Channel frame.

[c14] 14. A routing device comprising:

a designation that a first port and second port are equivalent;

a component that receives a communication that designates that the first port is to be the destination port for the received communication; and

a component that selects the second port as the destination port for the received communication based on the designation when the first port is currently unavailable.

[c15] 15. The routing device of claim 14 wherein the designation is a table with an entry for source ports of the routing device.

[c16] 16. The routing device of claim 15 wherein an entry for the first port designates that the second port is equivalent to the first port.

[c17] 17. The routing device of claim 15 wherein an entry for the second port designates that the first port is equivalent to the second port.

[c18] 18. The routing device of claim 14 wherein a port can be equivalent to multiple other ports.

[c19] 19. The routing device of claim 18 wherein the multiple ports have associated priorities and the second port is selected as the destination port when it has a priority that is higher than another of the multiple ports that are available.

[c20] 20. The routing device of claim 18 wherein the component that selects the second port selects the second port from one of the multiple other ports that is available.

[c21] 21. The routing device of claim 14 wherein the received communication designates the first port to be the destination port based on a mapping of a virtual address of the received communication to the first port.

[c22] 22. The routing device of claim 14 wherein the designation is provided by a source external to the routing device.

[c23] 23. The routing device of claim 14 wherein the designation is dynamically updated by a source external to the routing device.

[c24] 24. The routing device of claim 14 wherein the routing device is part of an interconnect fabric.

[c25] 25. The routing device of claim 14 wherein the routing device is Fibre Channel compatible.

[c26] 26. The routing device of claim 14 wherein the routing device is InfiniBand compatible.

[c27] 27. A routing device comprising:

means for designating that a first port and second port are equivalent;

means for receiving a communication that designates that the first port is to be the destination port for the received communication; and

means for selecting the second port as the destination port for the received communication based on the designation that the first port and the second port are equivalent when the first port is currently unavailable.

[c28] 28. The routing device of claim 27 wherein the means for designating is a mapping for source ports of the routing device.

[c29] 29. The routing device of claim 28 wherein a mapping for the first port designates that the second port is equivalent to the first port.

[c30] 30. The routing device of claim 28 wherein a mapping for the second port designates that the first port is equivalent to the second port.

[c31] 31. The routing device of claim 27 wherein a port can be equivalent to multiple other ports.

[c32] 32. The routing device of claim 31 wherein the multiple ports have associated priorities and the second port is selected as the destination port when it has a priority that is higher than another of the multiple ports that are available.

[c33] 33. The routing device of claim 31 wherein the means for selecting the second port selects the second port from one of the multiple other ports that is available.

[c34] 34. The routing device of claim 27 wherein the received communication designates the first port to be the destination port based on a mapping of a virtual address of the received communication to the first port.

[c35] 35. The routing device of claim 27 wherein the means for designating is provided a designation by a source external to the routing device.

[c36] 36. The routing device of claim 27 wherein means for designating receives a dynamic update from a source external to the routing device.

[c37] 37. The routing device of claim 27 wherein the routing device is part of an interconnect fabric.

[c38] 38. The routing device of claim 27 wherein the routing device is Fibre Channel compatible.

[c39] 39. The routing device of claim 27 wherein the routing device is InfiniBand compatible.